

Application No. 10/691,186
Preliminary Amendment dated Friday, January 09, 2004

REMARKS

Claim 1 is cancelled, claims 2-218 have previously been cancelled, and new claims 219-257 have been added. Support for new claims 219-257 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-123 of the present application, at page 19, lines 21-23, at page 21, lines 10-14, at page 84, lines 20-21, at pages 86-98, and at page 99, lines 26-28. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

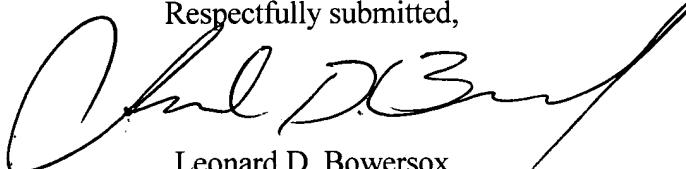
Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the present application and a timely allowance of the pending claims.

The undersigned representative is authorized to act as Applicants' representative, is signing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(b)(1), and has authority under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(b).

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants or Applicants' representative is desirable and/or necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the attorney or agent of record.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to deposit Account No. 50-0925. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard D. Bowersox
Reg. No. 33,226

KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Tel.: (703) 385-9688
Fax.: (703) 385-9719

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